

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: December 8, 2022

From: Police Department

Subject: Purchase of a Radio System Upgrade and Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Amendment

Recommended Action: Authorize the purchase of new radio system infrastructure for the Police Department and amend the FY 2022-23 Budget by appropriating \$74,000 of the remaining balance from the Community Power Resiliency Grant.

Background: In March of 2021, the City was awarded \$300,000 from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Community Power Resiliency program. On November 22, 2022, the City Council authorized a contract in the amount of \$226,000 for the replacement of the backup generator for City Hall and the Police Department. The remaining balance of \$74,000 can be spent on eligible expenditures such as redundant emergency communications: e.g., battery-powered radios; portable battery-powered and rechargeable radio repeaters, and transmission equipment.

In 1996 California legislation (AB 3229) created the Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) program, which allocated funds annually for front line local government law enforcement. These funds are distributed through the State Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF). The Police Department was granted \$100,000 in FY 2022-2023 and has a remaining fund balance of \$140,000 from FY 2021-2022. Funds from this grant are to be exclusively used for supporting front-line law enforcement and cannot be used to supplant existing funding or diverted to an entity's general fund. Funds from this program can be used for salaries, services, supplies, equipment, and administrative overhead.

Staff is seeking approval to use the remaining \$74,000 balance from the Community Power Resiliency project to upgrade our existing radio infrastructure. The total estimated cost to upgrade the radio system infrastructure is \$84,000 and the additional \$10,000 of funding can be provided by the City's SLESF awarded funds.

Discussion: The Police Department operates a very high frequency (VHF) public safety analog conventional radio system providing communications for first responders in the county. The current system operates a single repeated channel with no backup channel. This "Blue" channel is the Police Department's primary radio channel. The goal of this project is to upgrade our existing radio system by adding a second repeated channel (Yellow) and to extend coverage to fill gaps in the coverage. The proposed system upgrade meets this requirement and allows for two repeatable channels for our first responders.

The FY 2022-23 budget planned for the City to establish a Lifeguard Program, and no longer contract with the City of Santa Cruz for lifeguard services. The City is in process of developing this lifeguard program and is applying to become a certified United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) Lifeguard Agency. To become a USLA-certified agency, minimum equipment standards need to be met, which include communication radios that provide lifeguard-to-lifeguard communication and immediate activation of local emergency medical services. Since the City had contracted with Santa Cruz for the past 10 years, this equipment needs to be procured by the City. The proposed system upgrade will meet the requirements to be certified by USLA.

To expand our channel capacity, a new transmission/receiver will be installed at the Capitola Library as the new primary "Blue" channel. The other radio and transmission equipment will remain at their current locations and will serve as a backup "Yellow" channel for the Police Department and a new primary

channel for Capitola Lifeguard Services. A new receiver will be installed at the library site and additional antennas will be installed at the Lifeguard Towers in the Village. The library site will provide much-needed coverage on the east side of the City where radio reception/transmission is often broken and weak.

The following is the breakdown of estimated costs associated with this project:

Lifeguard Cart/Tower	\$	7,000
Receiver	\$	11,500
Repeater	\$	21,500
Hand-held radios	\$	36,000
Labor	\$	8,000
Total:	\$	84,000

Radio communications are governed by policies and procedures established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the California Department of Justice (DOJ). The proposed upgrades comply with the upcoming mandate to encrypt radio channels to protect Criminal Justice Information (CJI).

Santa Cruz County Information Services Department (ISD) Radio prepared this quote and has been selected as the vendor to order and install the parts. Santa Cruz County ISD Radio has access to our radio system and is the same vendor that was used in the initial radio system upgrade.

Fiscal Impact: This project will have no impact on the General Fund. Sufficient funds are available from the balance of the FY 2020-21 Community Power Resiliency grant program. Any additional funding needs that are not provided by the Community Power Resiliency will be offset through the approved FY 2022-23 SLESF Equipment budget.

Attachments:

1. Budget Amendment Form

Report Prepared By: Andrew Dally, Police Chief

Reviewed By: Julia Moss, City Clerk; Jim Malberg, Finance Director

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager